MARVEL COMICS
DAREDEVIL
AUG '96 355
DAREDEVIL
IT'S THE MUTANT MASTER OF FLAMES... PYRO!
AND THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR IS ABOUT TO GET... BURNED!
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STAN LEE PRESENTS:

TRIAL BY FIRE!

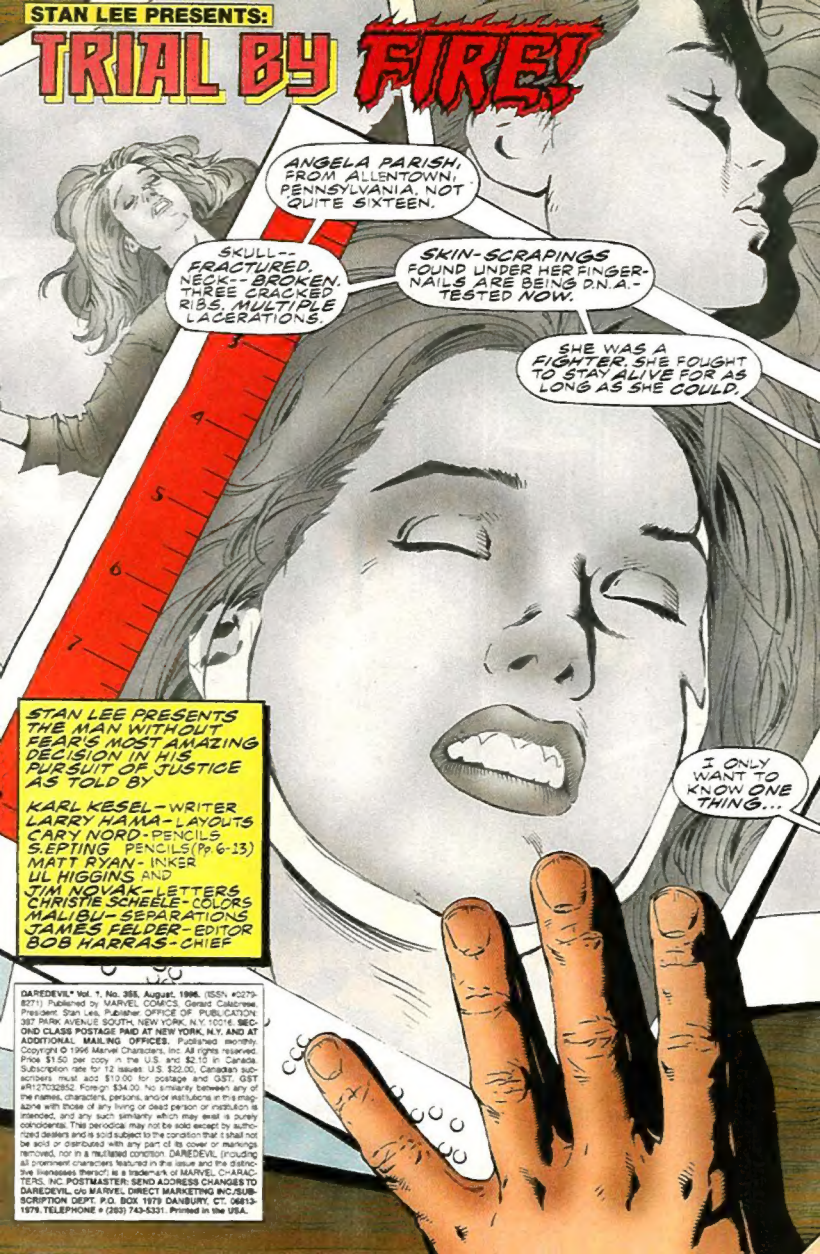
ANGELA PARISH, FROM ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA. NOT QUITE SIXTEEN.

SKULL-- FRACTURED. NECK-- BROKEN. THREE CRACKED RIBS. MULTIPLE LACERATIONS.

SKIN-SCRAPINGS FOUND UNDER HER FINGER-NAILS ARE BEING D.N.A.-TESTED NOW.

SHE WAS A FIGHTER. SHE FOUGHT TO STAY ALIVE FOR AS LONG AS SHE COULD.

I ONLY WANT TO KNOW ONE THING...



STAN LEE PRESENTS THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR'S MOST AMAZING DECISION IN HIS PURSUIT OF JUSTICE AS TOLD BY

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LARRY HAMA - LAYOUTS
CARY NORD - PENCILS
S.EPTING PENCILS (Pp. 6-13)
MATT RYAN - INKER
UL HIGGINS AND
JIM NOVAK - LETTERS
CHRISTIE SCHEELE - COLORS
MALIBU - SEPARATIONS
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BOB HARRAS - CHIEF

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...DID YOU DO IT?
DID YOU KILL ANGELA PARISH?
THE TRUTH, HYDE.
THE TRUTH, COUNSELOR, IS...
...YOU'RE HOLDING THAT PICTURE UPSIDE-DOWN!
IT MAY COME AS A SURPRISE TO YOU, BUT THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BEING STUPID AND BEING BLIND.
THESE PHOTOS ARE ALL MARKED WITH BRAILLE ALONG THE LOWER EDGE.
ANSWER THE QUESTION, PLEASE.

I HOPE WE'RE WORKING UNDER ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEDGE...
...THAT NOTHING I SAY HERE CAN EVER BE USED AGAINST ME IN A COURT OF LAW?
HYDE
THAT'S RIGHT.
HEH! I LOVE THIS COUNTRY!
ALL RIGHT--I SAW THIS GIRL ABOUT A MONTH AGO, OUTSIDE THE PORT AUTHORITY. LITTLE RUNAWAY...
KNEW NO ONE WOULD MISS HER, SO I TOOK HER...KEPT HER AT MY WAREHOUSE...
IT IS MY WAREHOUSE, BY THE WAY. PAID CASH FOR IT. SAYS "OSBORN" ON THE OUTSIDE, BUT THAT'S JUST WHO I BOUGHT IT FROM. HARRY OSBORN.
NERVOUS LITTLE MAN WITH MURDER ON HIS MIND.
I LIKED HIM!
GET TO THE POINT, HYDE.
THE POINT IS--I DIDN'T KILL HER, COUNSELOR!
OH, I WOULD'VE...BUT I WASN'T DONE WITH HER, YET!

MY GOD!
BECAUSE OF MY HEIGHTENED HEARING, I CAN TELL WHEN SOMEONE'S LYING--THEIR HEARTBEAT SPEEDS UP.
BUT HYDE'S NEVER CHANGED!
EITHER HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH...OR HE'S SUCH AN ACCOMPLISHED LIAR HE COULD BEAT ANY LIE DETECTOR!
I'M SORRY, MR. HYDE. YOUR CASE IS VERY... INTRIGUING, BUT I THINK YOU SHOULD FIND SOMEONE ELSE TO...
NO!
I WANT THE BEST REPRESENTATION, MR. MURDOCK--AND THAT MEANS YOU!
YOUR BOSS AND I AGREED THAT--
RIKER'S ISLAND
SHE ISN'T MY BOSS!
ROSALIND SHARPE IS THE SENIOR PARTNER IN THE LAW FIRM I JUST JOINED--BUT I STILL HAVE FINAL SAY OVER WHAT CASES I TAKE ON!
AND YOU'LL TAKE THIS ONE!
BASED ON YEARS OF PERSONAL EXPERIENCE, I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT I'LL BE A FREE MAN WHEN THIS IS OVER.
I'LL REMEMBER WHO STOOD BY ME, MR. MURDOCK ...AND WHO DIDN'T.
STUDY THE FACTS AGAIN--I'M SURE YOU'LL FIND I'M INNOCENT!
YOU'RE A LOT OF THINGS, HYDE...
...BUT YOU'RE FAR FROM INNOCENT!

--MEMENTOS FROM MORE INNOCENT DAYS, KAREN.
I'LL SAY, FOGGY! YOU AND MATT FRESH OUT OF LAW SCHOOL... SCRAMBLING TO MAKE A NAME...
DIDN'T HAVE A COMPUTER ... DIDN'T EVEN HAVE AN ELECTRIC TYPEWRITER! MAYBE THAT'S WHY I'M YOUR FORMER SECRETARY!
...IT'LL BE DIFFERENT NOW THAT MATT AND I ARE PART OF ROSALIND SHARPE'S FIRM. SHE ONLY USES THE BEST!
YOUR PARENTS SET YOU UP IN PRACTICE, DIDN'T THEY, FOGGY? YOU'D THINK THEY COULD'VE SPRUNG FOR AT LEAST ONE SELECTRIC!
YES, WELL...
THAT'S WHAT I HEAR. MATT'S TOLD ME ABOUT "RAZOR" SHARPE-- --AND I'M NOWHERE NEAR AS TACTFUL AS HIM.
SO-- JUST HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN ONE OF THE MOST RUTHLESS LAWYERS ON THE EAST COAST?
OH, UM... ALL MY LIFE, ACTUALLY.
NOT VERY WELL, OF COURSE. SHE'S, UM, SHE'S A VERY BUSY WOMAN. WE ALWAYS TRAVELED IN... DIFFERENT CIRCLES.
BUT ENOUGH SHOP TALK. HOW'S YOUR JOB HUNT GOING, KAREN?
KAREN--?

OKAY, YEAH, I... I MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING. I'VE GOT AN AUDITION LATE TONIGHT...
LATE TONIGHT? WHAT KIND OF--
I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING, FOGGY-- TRUST ME! JUST PLEASE DON'T TELL--
SLAM
--MATT!
WHO DOES SHE THINK SHE--
WHAT--?
KLAK
WHAT IS THIS? EVERYTHING'S MOVED! WHAT'S GOING ON?!
EASY, MATT. SIT DOWN...
WE'RE PACKING FOR THE BIG MOVE, PARTNER...
OH. I'M SORRY.
I'M SORRY BECAUSE YOU MIGHT BE WASTING YOUR TIME.
RAZOR WANTS ME TO DEFEND HYDE.!

MR. HYDE? HOW COULD ANYONE DEFEND THAT MONSTER?
I'LL BET THIS IS JUST ANOTHER MEDIA BLITZ TO YOUR NEW SENIOR PARTNER.
FROM WHAT YOU'VE TOLD ME, MATT, IT'S NEVER A QUESTION OF ETHICS WITH RAZOR--IT'S A QUESTION OF EXPOSURE!
WELL, UM... HYDE IS PRESUMED INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY, KAREN. HE'S ENTITLED TO A DEFENSE.
DID HE, UM, ADMIT TO KILLING THE GIRL?
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
THE THING IS, HYDE DOESN'T KNOW I WAS THERE...
"...AS DAREDEVIL!
"HIS SCENT WAS ALL OVER THAT ROOM, AND ON THE WARE-HOUSE'S BROKEN PADLOCK...
"NOT TO MENTION HE WAS INTENT ON KILLING ME!
"ON THAT ALONE I SHOULD RECUSE MYSELF..."

WHAT--YOU'RE GOING TO TELL THE JUDGE YOU CAN'T TRY THIS CASE BECAUSE YOU'RE SECRETLY DAREDEVIL?
OR WAS I THE ONLY ONE YOU NEVER TOLD YOUR SECRET TO?
GIVE IT A REST, FOGGY.
AND WHAT ABOUT YOUR FATHER, MATT? YOU BECAME A LAWYER BECAUSE OF HIM...
...IN HIS MEMORY, SHOULDN'T YOU UPHOLD YOUR OATH TO THE LAW? ISN'T THAT WHAT WOULD MAKE HIM PROUD OF HIS SON?
YOU THINKING OF SOMEONE ELSE, FOGGY? MATT'S DAD WOULD'VE NEVER WANTED HIM TO SET A KNOWN KILLER FREE!
PERSONALLY--I'M SICK OF TECHNICALITIES! I WANT HYDE TO PAY FOR HIS CRIMES! I WANT JUSTICE!
WITHOUT THE LAW THERE IS NO JUSTICE, KAREN!
THERE'S ONLY THE JUNGLE.
KLAP KLAP KLAP
VERY MOVING, MR. MURDOCK. MAKES ME SORRY I JUST GOT HERE.
OF COURSE, I'M SURE FOGGY WILL HAVE AN EQUALLY BRILLIANT REBUTTAL!
KLAP KLAP KLAP
OH--HA HA--LIZ! YOU'RE, UM, YOU'RE EARLY!
MATT, KAREN--THIS IS LIZ OSBORN. SHE, UM, SAID SHE'D HELP ME SHOP FOR SOME NEW... OFFICE FURNITURE?

I JUST THOUGHT--NEW PLACE, NEW LOOK...EXCEPT FOR FOGGY'S "LUCKY WASTEBASKET," OF COURSE!
WELL, HE'S RETRIEVED A LOT OF WINNING ARGUMENTS FROM THAT THING!
HAVE FUN, YOU TWO...
FINALLY!
I CAME UP HERE BECAUSE IT WAS THE FIRST PLACE I COULD GET TO--TO CHANGE TO DAREDEVIL!
I REALLY NEED TO WORK OFF SOME STEAM... GET MY MIND AROUND THIS WHOLE HYDE MESS...
HMM...
YOU THINK FOGGY AND LIZ WOULD LIKE TO DOUBLE-DATE WITH US SOMEDAY, MATT?
DOUBLE--?
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT, KAREN? FOGGY AND LIZ AREN'T DATING! THEY'RE BARELY FRIENDS!
DON'T WORRY, MATT--THEY DON'T KNOW IT YET, EITHER!
BETTER GET SWINGING BEFORE SOMEONE ELSE COMES BY, COUNSELOR...
...OR BEFORE YOUR GIRL-FRIEND STARTS ENTERTAINING SOME VERY DEVILISH THOUGHTS!
HOLD THOSE THOUGHTS, KAREN...

"...UNTIL I SORT THROUGH SOME OF MY OWN!"!
IF IT WASN'T HYDE--WOULD I TAKE THE CASE?
MAYBE.
BUT HYDE TAINTS EVERYTHING HE TOUCHES. IT'S A MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE THAT HE WAS FREE TO BEGIN WITH!
IT MIGHT BE DIFFERENT IF I ACTUALLY THOUGHT HE WAS TELLING THE TRUTH--BUT HYDE'S THE PRINCE OF LIES!
IT'S LIKE EVERYTHING HE SAYS IS WRAPPED IN SMOKE, AND WHERE THERE'S SMOKE--
WAIT A MINUTE--THERE IS SMOKE... COMING FROM THE WEST SIDE!
GOOD-SIZED BLAZE, TOO--IF I CAN SMELL IT THIS FAR AWAY!
LOOKS LIKE YOU GUYS PICKED THE WRONG TIME TO WASH YOUR TRUCK!
SEE YOU AT THE FIRE! LAST ONE THERE BUYS THE MARSH-MALLOWS!
FIRE? THERE'S NO FIRE, DAREDEVIL! WHAT'RE YOU TALKING--
BINK-BINK-BIN
--ABOUT?

WELL, WELL--A HANDFUL OF WATERFRONT WAREHOUSES ...ABOUT TO BECOME INSURANCE CLAIMS!
INCLUDING THE ONE ANGELA PARISH DIED IN!
COINCIDENCE. OR--
WHOOO-WHOOO-WHOOO
--CAN I DO ANYTHING?
SURE! CAN YOU, LIKE, MENTALLY CONTROL FLAMES OR SUMMON HELLFIRE TO HELP US OR SOMETHING?
UM...NO--EXACTLY.
YOU KNOW, MAYBE I BETTER JUST STAY OUT OF YOUR WAY...
DUNNO, DD--LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GONNA NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET! I MEAN--
...I AIN'T NEVER SEEN A FIRE LIKE THIS!
LOOKS LIKE A DRAGON!
DON'T TELL ME IT'S ONE OF THE KIND THAT BREATHES FIRE?

FRSHOOM!
I'D BET YOUR LIFE ON IT!
GET BACK!
TH-THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING!
WELL, I THINK IT'S SAFE TO SAY THIS ISN'T YOUR NORMAL FOUR-ALARMER!
THE FIRE'S BURNING HOTTER THAN USUAL... MOVING AGAINST THE WIND...
NOT TO MENTION IT'S PARTING LIKE THE RED SEA AND LEAVING A PATH STRAIGHT TO THE FRONT DOOR OF THE BUILDING IT'S BURNING DOWN!
UM, YEAH-- THAT, TOO!
I CAN TELL WHERE THE FIRE IS FROM, ITS HEAT-- BUT THE FLAMES BARELY SHOW UP ON MY RADAR SENSE!
CAN'T LET THESE SMOKE-EATERS-- OR ANYONE-- KNOW THAT! ESPECIALLY SINCE--
--I'VE GOT A GOOD IDEA WHO'S BEHIND THIS, NOW!
SOMEONE I HAVEN'T SEEN IN A LONG TIME-- THIS IS JUST HIS WAY OF GIVING ME A WARM WELCOME!
BETTER NOT KEEP HIM WAITING, OR HE'LL GET REALLY BURNED!
DD-- WAIT! WE--
--GOTTA PUT THE FIRE OUT TO GET TO HIM NOW! THOSE FLAMES RE CLOSIN' IN BEHIND HIM...
No. 9

"...LIKE THEY'RE ALIVE!"
FIVE HOT SPOTS, EACH SIDE OF ME.
PUH-LEASE! NOT THE OLD "FIERY FINGERS OF DEATH" ROUTINE!
I WOULD'VE EXPECTED SOMETHING WITH A LITTLE MORE EDGE FROM THE MUTANT MASTER OF FIRE-FORMING NAME?--
--PYRO!
G'DAY, DEVIL--G'DAY TO DIE!
WAS HOPIN' YOU'D JOIN ME IN MY PRIVATE LITTLE HELL!

YOU MEAN THIS ISN'T WHERE THEY'RE HAVING THE FIRE SALE?
GEE--LOOKS LIKE YOU'D GOT SOME TO SPARE!
FUNNY AS A BLOODY DISEASE, DEVIL!
DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE THIS PLACE? DON'T IT BRING BACK MEMORIES OF A LITTLE ANGEL WITH NO PLACE TO HIDE?
YOU BLIND, HERO? CONNECT THE DOTS!
IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS WALKIN' BY AND THOUGHT--"NOW THERE'S A GOOD PLACE TO START A CRACKLER!"
ACTUALLY, I'M SURPRISED YOU THINK AT ALL, PYRO!
BUT IF YOU THINK YOU CAN DESTROY EVIDENCE ABOUT ANGELA PARISH'S MURDER--
I'M DOIN' AN ACE JOB OF IT ALREADY, DEVIL! THAT'S WHAT I'M PAID FOR, INNIT?
BUT NO WORRIES OF YOURS! NOT WHEN I CAN MAKE SOME FIERY MATES THAT WANT TO THROW A SHRIMP LIKE YOU ON THE BARBIE!
WELL, AS CRIMINALS LIKE YOU KNOW, PYRO--

--IT'S NICE TO BE WANTED!
BUT IT'S REALLY NOT NECESSARY FOR THESE THINGS TO CARRY A TORCH FOR ME!
FSHOOM!
WOULD BE NICE IF THEY SHOWED UP ON MY RADAR SENSE, THOUGH--OR IF I WAS INVULNERABLE!
YEAH--GOT TO REMEMBER TO ASK FOR THAT WITH MY SUPER-POWER UPGRADE!!
FSHOOSH!
HEY--WATCH IT!
YOU DECAPITATE ME, NO ONE'LL EVER BE ABLE TO CALL ME "HORNHEAD" AGAIN!
THOUGH I GUESS THEY COULD CALL ME "SHORN-HEAD"...
OH, COME ON! YOU KNOW THE PROBLEM WITH YOU FIRE-CREATIONS--BESIDES, BEING DEADLY, I MEAN?
YOU HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO SENSE OF HUMOR!
ON THE OTHER HAND...

YOU HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO SOLID PHYSICAL FORM, EITHER.
SO IF I MOVE FAST ENOUGH, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO JUMP THROUGH YOU WITHOUT BEING INCINERATED!
FWOOSH
I HOPE
THAT'S KEEFE! THAT'S WHY THEY CALL YOU THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR, DEVIL?
DOWN UNDER WE'D CALL YOU A KUFFY THE MAN WITHOUT COMMON SENSE.
KEEFE! KEEFE!
SOUNDS LIKE YOU'D BETTER STOP SMOKING, PYRO. NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT!
YOU CAN USE YOUR POWERS TO STOP THE FIRE--I'LL TAKE A QUICK SCAN FOR INCRIMINATING EVIDENCE...
HECK, I'LL EVEN SPRING FOR ONE OF THOSE PATCHES--FIX YOU RIGHT UP.
THEY DON'T MAKE ANYTHING THAT CAN FIX ME, DEVIL, OR YOU--IN ABOUT THREE SECONDS!
YOU'RE RIGHT, PYRO. THIS FIGHT-OF-THE-MONTH THING ISN'T WORKING FOR ME, EITHER
WHAT'RE YOU BLOODY RUNNIN' OFF ABOUT DEVIL?
I'M SAYIN'--
FWIPP

...YOU'RE FIRED!
GNNH!
OOR! THAT...THAT HURT! MAKES IT BLOODY IMPOSSIBLE.. CONCENTRATIN' ON FIRE-FORMS...
BUT IT'S BETTER'N DYING IN BED!
WON'T GO THAT WAY . WON'T BE REMEMBERED THAT WAY...
DIDN'T REALIZE HOW LABORED FYRO'S BREATHING IS... HOW CONGESTED HIS LUNGS SOUND..
EASY, HOTSHOT-- I'LL GET YOU TO A HOSPITAL. JUST TELL ME-- DO YOU KNOW WHAT HYDE WANTED DESTROYED HERE?
WHAT WAS IT THAT LINKED HIM TO ANGELA PARISH'S MURDER?

HEH-HEH-HEH! WHO SAID I WAS HYDE "NOT" HIRED ME?
WHAT--?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WHO DO YOU MEAN?
IT... IT... DON'T MATTER... HOSPITALS DON'T MATTER...
I'M A DEAD MAN... DEAD FROM THE LEGACY VIRUS...
BUT I WENT OUT... IN A BLAZE OF GLORY! EH? THAT'S MY LEGACY... INNIT?
THAT'S WHY... I INVITED YOU, DEVIL...
SO... YOU'D "TELL HOW I WENT DOWN FIGHTIN'"...
OR ELSE, AT "LEAST" THEY'D KNOW IT WAS ME WHO...
*A LETHAL DISEASE THAT HAS BEEN KILLING MUTANTS! --Prof. E
...KILLED DAREDEVIL!
FRREESH

KREEK
OH, BEAUTY! NEVER . NEVER COULD SHOOT THOSE THINGS... TO SAVE MY LI--
CATWALK-- PUSHED PYRO RIGHT THROUGH THE FLOOR!
MIGHT BE MY ONLY WAY OUT! THINK I SMELL WATER DOWN THERE-- HARD TO TELL WITH ALL THIS SMOKE!
'COURSE THAT WON'T DO ANY GOOD...
"...IF THIS PLACE COMES DOWN ON TOP OF ME!"
KERKRESH
THE WAREHOUSE IMPLODES INTO A MAZE OF RED-HOT TIMBERS.. THEN SETTLES AND SHIFTS AGAIN..
ASHEN STEAM FILLS THE AIR
FOR NEARLY SIX MINUTES THE FIREFIGHTERS KEEP PUMPING WATER IN THE DIRECTION OF THE BLAZE. BUT ALL THEY SEE IS A WALL OF GREY...

...THEY MIGHT AS WELL BE BLIND...
GHAH--!
OVER HERE--WE GOT A LIVE ONE!
YOU'RE ONE LUCKY DEVIL, DD!
WE GOT THE FIRE PRETTY WELL DOUSED--YOU NAIL THE CREEP THAT CAUSED ALL THIS?
NOT--khøk!--NOT EXACTLY. HE GOT OUT THE SAME WAY I DID...
...KIND OF.
MAN! SOMETIMES THERE JUST AIN'T NO JUSTICE, IS THERE?
AT LEAST NOT THE KIND YOU WANT...

KAREN? KAREN, I'VE DECIDED--
KAREN?
STRANGE... WHERE COULD SHE BE?
FOGGY?
Hmm. NOT HOME...
NOT AT THE OFFICE, EITHER
THEN AGAIN, IT'S NOT OUR OFFICE, ANYWAY.
OH... WHERE ELSE WOULD FOGGY BE?
WHERE ELSE WOULD HE WANT TO BE?
MINUTES LATER, ACROSS TOWN...
YOU WON'T REGRET THIS, ROSALIND! YOU'LL BE PROUD OF ME!
AND... Um, MATT, TOO! ONCE HE GETS USED TO THINGS, I'M SURE WE'LL BE ONE, BIG HAPPY--

OH! MATT! I DIDN'T, UMM, HEAR YOU COME IN!
ROSALIND AND I WERE JUST, UMM... UH...
IT APPEARS THAT MR. MURDOCK IS TOO PREOCCUPIED TO BE INTERESTED IN OUR CONCERNS, FRANKLIN.
DO TELL WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND, COUNSELOR -- IT'S GOOD FOR THE SOUL!
HE'S INNOCENT...
...HYDE'S INNOCENT...
UMM... YOU OKAY, MATT?
FRANKLY, YOU SMELL LIKE YOU'VE BEEN HANGING AROUND THE CAMPFIRE A LITTLE TOO LONG -- KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
ACTUALLY, I BELIEVE MR. MURDOCK'S COME TO HIS SENSES, FRANKLIN!
ONE RECOMMENDATION, MATT -- DO TRY TO BE A BIT MORE ENTHUSED WHEN YOU'RE IN FRONT OF THE CAMERAS!
NOW, IF YOU DON'T MIND, YOU'RE DRIPPING ALL OVER--
DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME? DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?
THERE WAS A FIRE TONIGHT! DAREDEVIL LEARNED SOMETHING! HE TOLD ME AND...
...AND NOW I'M CONVINCED THAT NO MATTER WHAT ELSE HYDE'S DONE -- HE DIDN'T KILL ANGELA PARISH!
HE DESERVES TO ROT IN JAIL... BUT NOT FOR A CRIME HE DIDN'T COMMIT.
I'LL DEFEND HIM.
I'LL DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO MAKE SURE MR. HYDE IS SET FREE...
CONTINUED!

DEVIL'S ADVOCATE
C/O MARVEL COMICS, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016
Letters for publication must include your name and address, although we will withhold that information upon request.

JAMES "PROFESSOR" FELDER
EDITOR

JOE ANDREANI
DEMOLITION MAN

BOB HARRAS
CHIEF

Daredevils:

Let me see...where to start? Well, how about what got me to pick up this comic book to begin with? The promise of the high octane writing of Karl Kesel combined with Cary Nord's realistic and dynamic art. Issue #353 comes to mind...

The ads and interviews that led to Karl and Cary's debut issue piqued my interest in giving DAREDEVIL another chance. When it finally came out, I picked it up and gave it a once-over to make sure the quality I was hoping for did indeed find its way into the comic I was holding. I tried my darndest to remain skeptical (I've witnessed so many failed revamps of various titles, it's to laugh), but I was shocked! It actually exceeded my high hopes. Now, after taking it home and reading it, I gotta tell ya, Karl surpassed my dreams as well.

This is the Daredevil I used to love. It had been so long that whenever I would get into conversations about comics and DD came up, I would be saying, "yeah, he's cool, but..." In years recently past, there was always a "but". But...upon reading DD #353, memories of "the good ol' days" came flooding back to me. Matt's sense of humor, his truly daring feats, his unorthodox techniques, his...well, you get the idea. These were things shown sporadically, if at all, in recent times.

But not anymore! Karl is doing a fantastic job of getting back to the basics, yet incorporating the new as well (such as Foggy's awareness of Matt's double-life). The revamped Mr. Hyde fit well in this issue as well, as he has always been a DD villain to me. It was also nice to see JR Jr.'s name in the credits, as he is one of the greats from DD's past. Great design, John! Hyde is looking like a much more contemporary lunatic now.

It's not like you hadn't already won me over, but what may have sold me the most on this ish were the great jokes. Looking back, I have to give the nod to the "Hyde with a *y* not an *i* " bit as my fave. I've also always loved when DD makes funny about his senses, almost as asides to the readers. But, anyway, I kept thinking about how great it would be to see DD team up with Spidey as written by Karl Kesel. Boy, the cut-ups would be flyin'! 'Lo and behold, when I was done with this ish, there was next issue's cover in the letters page. It featured the Spidey signal shining on Daredevil. Yesss! I cannot wait 30 days!

Travis MacKinnon
290 Morningside Ave, Apt. 514
Scarborough, Ontario
Canada M1E 3E9

Thanks for the high praise, Travis. It's always an uncertain experience bringing on a new creative tea, but with readers like you, it's a piece of cake! Both Karl and Cary send their appreciation.

And what did you think of the Spidey issue? Write us back!

Dear Scarlet Swashbucklers,

DAREDEVIL has always been a book with tremendous potential, but it has not always lived up to that potential.

Now with issue #353, writer extraordinaire Karl Kesel and penciler Cary Nord are suddenly added to the devil's brew. I'm quite a fan of Karl's work, so I was overjoyed to see him come on board. I'm unfamiliar with Cary Nord's stuff except for the covers and fill-ins he provided for the book, but he seems like a good choice so far. May I plead plaintively for you to keep the Kesel/Nord/Ryan team on board for more than two or three issues? Team stability is one of the things that allows a comic to reach its fullest potential.

"The Devil's Work" was a fine piece of work from start to finish. Karl's story was well-plotted, showing an excellent grasp of Matt, Foggy, and Karen's characters. Karl very neatly shows us his familiarity with Daredevil's history in a number of ways. The quick recap of DD's origin, the references to Karen's work in the, er, film industry, and Karl's obvious awareness of the long friendship between Foggy and Matt were nice touches, especially for those who might be unfamiliar with the character. Matt wisely chooses to meet Foggy's disappointment with him head-on, in an attempt to stave off further hurt. I've long thought that Matt should have brought Foggy into his confidence long ago regarding his dual identity—after all, Karen knew, and Matt and Foggy are nearly as close as Matt and Karen—but he had his reasons. It's my hope that Foggy will forgive him and their friendship will remain strong.

Nice job, people. Keep it up, and issue #353 will indeed be, as the box says, a start to a "new era" for the Man Without Fear. See you in thirty for more of the same.

Phil Carter
200 Piccadilly Sq., Apt. A-6
Athens, GA 30605

This is indeed a new era for Daredevil, Phil, and we're glad that you could be a part of it. For years, readers have been requesting that Matt share his identity secrets with Foggy. Now that he has, it seems that it was the right choice, after all—BUT that doesn't mean that it won't have any repercussions of the most serious kind...

Oh, and don't worry, we're not doing anything with the great Kesel/Nord/Ryan team. These guys are on for the long haul!

Karl & Cary,

He's back! He's really back! After eleven long years of searching (ho hum...) for an identity, Daredevil is back! Shades of Colan and Thomas, he's finally returned!

Re #353 — This is the real Daredevil, the real Matt Murdock! Great art! Excellent storytelling, the feel of youth, etc.! Having started reading DD with issue #1 in '63 (a great year), and having suffered with a totally different character since Miller departed, he's back! Yes! Yes!

Do you think I'm exuberated? You have brought him back! This is the one and only "Man Without Fear", this is the real Daredevil!

Thank you oh so much!

NEXT ISSUE:

Pre-Trial mayhem in 30 days as Daredevil searches for the true murderer — and finds a long-gone foe from his past! Join Karl, Cary, Matt and the team without fear as they go hunting for a killer!